

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 10 and 12-20 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant amends Claims 10, 13, and 17-19, cancels Claim 11, and adds new Claim 20.

Applicant's counsel greatly appreciates the courtesies extended by the Examiner in the personal Interview of February 26, 2009. In the personal Interview, Applicant's counsel explained the benefits and advantages that are obtained by the present invention, and the differences between the present invention and the applied prior art (Iwao et al. and Feichtinger et al.).

Applicant's counsel explained that a lamination-type resistance element according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention includes **a plurality of internal electrodes of a first group and a plurality of internal electrodes of a second group**, each of the internal electrodes of the second group includes a plurality of pairs of internal electrodes in which a first end of one electrode faces a first end of the other electrode with a gap therebetween on the same plane inside the laminated sinter, one internal electrode in each pair is electrically connected to the first external electrode, and the other is electrically connected to the second external electrode, and **the gaps between the first ends of each of the plurality of pairs of internal electrodes of the second group overlap with each other in a lamination direction in the laminated sinter**.

In contrast, Iwao et al. merely teaches pairs of internal electrodes in which a first end of one electrode faces a first end of the other electrode with a gap therebetween on the same plane inside the laminated sinter, one internal electrode in each pair is electrically connected to the first external electrode, and the other is electrically connected to the second external electrode, and the gaps between the first ends of each of the plurality of pairs of internal electrodes of the second group **do not overlap** with each other in a lamination direction in the laminated sinter (see, for example, FIG. 6 of Iwao et al.).

Feichtinger et al. merely teaches a single group of internal electrodes. Feichtinger et al. fails to teach or suggest any embodiment that includes two groups of

internal electrodes which are arranged as recited in Applicant's Claim 10.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended Claim 10 to recite the feature of "the gaps between the first ends of each of the plurality of pairs of internal electrodes of the second group **overlap with each other** in a lamination direction of the laminated sinter" (emphasis added).

The Examiner tentatively agreed that Iwao et al. and Feichtinger et al. fail to teach or suggest the unique combination and arrangement of features recited in Applicant's Claim 10, as amended herein.

In the personal Interview, Applicant's counsel also explained that a lamination-type resistance element according to another preferred embodiment of the present invention includes **internal electrodes of a first group and internal electrodes of a second group**, each of the internal electrodes of the first group includes a first internal electrode connected to the first external electrode and a second internal electrode connected to the second external electrode which face each other through the ceramic resistance layer; each of the internal electrodes of the second group includes a third internal electrode and a fourth internal electrode in which a first end of third internal electrode faces a first end of the fourth internal electrode with a gap therebetween on the same plane inside the laminated sinter, and second ends are connected to the first external electrode and the second external electrode, respectively, and **the gaps between the third internal electrodes and fourth internal electrodes are at the same location along a lamination direction of the laminated sinter; and an end of the internal electrode of the first group that is arranged closest to the second group is aligned, in the lamination direction of the laminated sinter, with the first end of one of the third and fourth internal electrodes that is arranged closest to the first group.**

In contrast, Iwao et al. merely teaches an end of the internal electrode of the first group that is arranged closest to the second group **does not overlap**, in the lamination direction of the laminated sinter, with the first end of one of the third and fourth internal electrodes that is arranged closest to the first group" (see, for example, FIG. 6 of Iwao

et al.).

Feichtinger et al. teaches only a single group of internal electrodes. Feichtinger et al. fails to teach or suggest any embodiment that includes two groups of internal electrodes which are arranged as recited in Applicant's Claims 17-19.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended Claim 17 and 18 to recite the feature of "the gap between the first end of the first internal electrode and the first end of the second internal electrode that is arranged closest to the second group overlaps, in the lamination direction of the laminated sinter, with the gap between the first ends of the third internal electrode and the fourth internal electrode that is arranged closest to the first group," and has amended Claim 19 to recite the feature of "an end of the internal electrode of the first group that is arranged closest to the second group overlaps, in the lamination direction of the laminated sinter, with the first end of one of the third and fourth internal electrodes that is arranged closest to the first group."

The Examiner tentatively agreed that Iwao et al. and Feichtinger et al. fail to teach or suggest the unique combination and arrangement of features recited in Applicant's Claims 17-19.

Claims 10-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Iwao et al. (US 6,593,844). Claims 10-16 and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Feichtinger et al. (US 7,135,955). Claim 11 has been canceled. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of Claims 10 and 12-20.

Claim 10 has been amended to recite:

A lamination-type resistance element comprising:
a laminated sinter having a plurality of ceramic resistance layers
and a plurality of internal electrodes laminated therein; and
a first external electrode and a second external electrode provided
on the outer surface of the laminated sinter; wherein
**the plurality of internal electrodes includes a plurality of
internal electrodes of a first group and a plurality of internal
electrodes of a second group;**

each of the plurality of internal electrodes of the first group includes
a resistance unit in which at least two internal electrodes are disposed so
as to face each other through one of the ceramic resistance layers, a first

end of the resistance unit is electrically connected to the first external electrode, and a second end is electrically connected to the second external electrode;

each of the internal electrodes of the second group includes a plurality of pairs of internal electrodes in which a first end of one electrode faces a first end of the other electrode with a gap therebetween on the same plane inside the laminated sinter, one internal electrode in each pair is electrically connected to the first external electrode, and the other is electrically connected to the second external electrode; and

the gaps between the first ends of each of the plurality of pairs of internal electrodes of the second group overlap with each other in a lamination direction of the laminated sinter. (emphasis added)

Claim 17 has been amended to recite:

A lamination-type resistance element comprising:

a laminated sinter having a plurality of ceramic resistance layers and a plurality of internal electrodes laminated therein; and
a first external electrode and a second external electrode provided on the outer surface of the laminated sinter; wherein

the internal electrodes include internal electrodes of a first group and internal electrodes of a second group;

each of the internal electrodes of the first group includes a first internal electrode and a second internal electrode in which a first end of the first internal electrode is arranged so as to face a first end of the second internal electrode with a gap therebetween on the same plane inside the laminated sinter and second ends of the first and second internal electrodes are connected to the first external electrode and the second external electrode, respectively, and neighboring gaps between the first and second internal electrodes in a lamination direction of the laminated sinter are arranged at different locations when seen from the lamination direction of the laminated sinter;

each of the internal electrodes of the second group includes a third internal electrode and a fourth internal electrode in which a first end of the third internal electrode faces a first end of the fourth internal electrode other with a gap therebetween on the same plane inside the laminated sinter, and second ends are connected to the first external electrode and the second external electrode, respectively, and the gaps between the third internal electrodes and fourth internal electrodes are at the same location along the lamination direction of the laminated sinter and

the gap between the first end of the first internal electrode and the first end of the second internal electrode that is arranged closest to the second group overlaps, in the lamination direction of the

laminated sinter, with the gap between the first ends of the third internal electrode and the fourth internal electrode that is arranged closest to the first group.

Claim 19 has been amended to recite:

A lamination-type resistance element comprising:
a laminated sinter having a plurality of ceramic resistance layers
and a plurality of internal electrodes laminated therein; and
a first external electrode and a second external electrode provided
on the outer surface of the laminated sinter; wherein

the internal electrodes include internal electrodes of a first group and internal electrodes of a second group;

each of the internal electrodes of the first group includes a first internal electrode connected to the first external electrode and a second internal electrode connected to the second external electrode which face each other through the ceramic resistance layer;

each of the internal electrodes of the second group includes a third internal electrode and a fourth internal electrode in which a first end of third internal electrode faces a first end of the fourth internal electrode with a gap therebetween on the same plane inside the laminated sinter, and second ends are connected to the first external electrode and the second external electrode, respectively, and the gaps between the third internal electrodes and fourth internal electrodes are at the same location along a lamination direction of the laminated sinter; and

an end of the internal electrode of the first group that is arranged closest to the second group overlaps, in the lamination direction of the laminated sinter, with the first end of one of the third and fourth internal electrodes that is arranged closest to the first group. (emphasis added)

Applicant's Claim 18 recites features that are similar to the features recited in Applicant's Claim 17, including the above-emphasized feature.

With the unique combination and arrangement of features recited in Applicant's Claims 10 and 17-19, including the features of "the gaps between the first ends of each of the plurality of pairs of internal electrodes of the second group overlap with each other in a lamination direction of the laminated sinter," "the gap between the first end of the first internal electrode and the first end of the second internal electrode that is arranged closest to the second group overlaps, in the lamination direction of the

laminated sinter, with the gap between the first ends of the third internal electrode and the fourth internal electrode that is arranged closest to the first group," and "an end of the internal electrode of the first group that is arranged closest to the second group overlaps, in the lamination direction of the laminated sinter, with the first end of one of the third and fourth internal electrodes that is arranged closest to the first group," Applicant has been able to provide a lamination-type resistance element having a structure in which fine adjustment of the resistance value can be made in the lamination-type resistance element using a laminated sinter having internal electrodes. (see, for example, paragraph [0022] of the Substitute Specification).

As noted above, Applicant's Claim 10 has been amended to recite the feature of "the gaps between the first ends of each of the plurality of pairs of internal electrodes of the second group overlap with each other in a lamination direction of the laminated sinter," Applicant's Claims 17 and 18 have been amended to recite the feature of "the gap between the first end of the first internal electrode and the first end of the second internal electrode that is arranged closest to the second group overlaps, in the lamination direction of the laminated sinter, with the gap between the first ends of the third internal electrode and the fourth internal electrode that is arranged closest to the first group," and Applicant's Claim 19 has been amended to recite the feature of "an end of the internal electrode of the first group that is arranged closest to the second group overlaps, in the lamination direction of the laminated sinter, with the first end of one of the third and fourth internal electrodes that is arranged closest to the first group." Support for these features is found, for example, Figs. 1-6 of the originally filed drawings and the associated description in the Substitute Specification.

As tentatively acknowledged by the Examiner in the personal Interview of February 26, 2009, neither Iwao et al. nor Feichtinger et al. teaches or suggests the unique combination and arrangement of features recited in Applicant's Claims 10 and 17-19

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 10 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Iwao

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et al., and the rejection of Claims 10, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Feichtinger et al.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 10 and 17-19 are allowable. Claims 12-16 and 20 depend upon Claims 10 and 19, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that Claims 10 and 19 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions the Commissioner for a Three-Month Extension of Time, extending to April 6, 2009, the period for response to the Office Action dated October 6, 2008.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Christopher A. Bennett, #46,710/
Attorneys for Applicant

KEATING & BENNETT, LLP
1800 Alexander Bell Drive, Suite 200
Reston, VA 20191
Telephone: (571) 313-7440
Facsimile: (571) 313-7421

Joseph R. Keating
Registration No. 37,368

Christopher A. Bennett
Registration No. 46,710